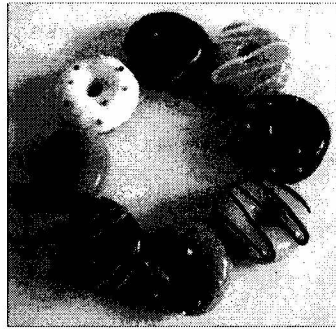


Newburyport Daily News

It's that time again this year. The scent of oil hangs heavy in the sweet nautical air of Newburyport, a reminder for the noses of this small town that the doughnut contest is once again taking place. Competitors come from all around the world hoping to win the favor of the natives, well versed in their fried pastries. The best part of the competition is today June 11th and the town is packed shoulder to shoulder awaiting the judging. Stands set up in line like obedient elementary schoolers flash smiles at the serious judges. One Judge in particular, David Thompson, is veteran to the contest itself as both a judge and a competitor. He won about five years back for his determination-filled doughnuts which consequently sent all who tasted them to their next task with a new sense of a second wind. This year he stands before us, seriousness frosting his generally warm exterior. A well tailored suit is evidence of his doughnut making success and the glasses that skim the bridge of his nose let any newcomers to the contest know that this man knows his doughnuts. The fiercest competitors this year include Alexandra Loring and Bryan Kell. Beaming as usual, Loring was happy to say a few words on her product: Joy - filled Doughnuts." It's really exciting to be in the contest for the first time this year and already make it to the finals. I guess it helps being local, but I've been working on these for a



while...so I hope for the best!" Kell was less inclined to speak and preferred to keep his entrance to the contest a surprise, moping to the back of his stand with apparent annoyance. This is the second year of finals for Bryan Kell, infamous for turning out incredible doughnuts but also for his reclusive attitude that always keeps the judges guessing. Judging time finally arrived and Alexandra's Joy-filled doughnuts are first up to bat. David approached her stand with a slow gait, observing her stand's cleanliness and overall aesthetic appeal. Alexandra took a warm doughnut off of a draining plate lined with paper towels and handed it to the judge with a smile. Placing his clipboard on the counter, he took the plate and bit into the doughnut about halfway, getting a taste of both the filling and the pastry itself. The doughnut was warm and airy with a sugary glaze on top and pink sprinkles while the inside was a raspberry filling with chocolate swirls. Taking a moment to chew and swallow, the whole audience could tell that David was impressed.

Nodding, he took notes happily on her scoring sheet, deliberately taking his time and leaving the crowd and Ms. Loring in apprehensive suspense. He kept the sheet on his clipboard but flipped to the next page as he walked to the other contestant: Mr. Kell. "What do you have for us today?" asked David. "Calm-filled doughnuts" mumbled Ryan as he prepared a plate. The doughnut was a dark chocolate on the outside, no sprinkles, no frosting, and simple. David took a bite. The inside was a cream cheese filling which was whipped and sweet, but not overly so. The judges' faces seem to be overtaken by calm, their eyes shutting halfway and their stiff postures loosening. Unfortunately, the results of this judging won't be posted until the end of the festival on Friday, but the whole town and all its tourists are sure to be paying attention to any and all forms of press to find the winner. School has been cancelled for this exact reason but until then the town is tense and waits walking on eggshells.
~Moe R. Sprinkles,
Daily news